



January 12, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is my honor to have been asked by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to serve as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR), in addition to serving on the House Appropriations Committee. The OGR Committee is the primary investigative body in the U.S. House of Representatives with jurisdiction to conduct oversight of all federal departments, agencies and programs. Under Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA), the committee intends to implement vigorous oversight of the Iraq War and contracting issues during the 110th Congress. This appointment is a tremendous responsibility, especially at a time when President Bush is escalating the U.S. involvement in Iraq's civil war. [Click here to read the full release.](#)

March begins the fifth year of the war in Iraq, and President Bush's decision to escalate U.S. involvement in the war, indicates that he is clearly ignoring reality: there is no military solution to the civil war in Iraq. President Bush's escalation is not a solution. It only guarantees that he will leave behind tens of thousands of American troops in Iraq when he leaves the White House. I want our troops home safe and soon.

After slightly more than one week in the Majority, Democrats have already won real victories for the American people. Democrats passed real ethics reform, and legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 commission ([H.R. 1 – PDF fact sheet](#)), to raise the minimum wage ([H.R. 2 – PDF fact sheet](#)), advance stem cell research ([H.R. 3 – PDF fact sheet](#)) and to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for every American senior ([H.R. 4 – PDF fact sheet](#)).

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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